

THE MORNING SUN.

Volume 1,
Number 37

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., SUNDAY, MAY 12, 1907.

Five Cents a copy
\$1 for the session

SENATE KILLED THE STETSON BILL

SENATOR HUMPHRIES, WHO INTRODUCED THE BILL, OPPOSED IT, AND SENATOR BEARD SAID IT WOULD BE AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACT TO PASS IT—INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT WAS ITS FINISH.

Refusal of the Senate to meddle in the Stetson muddle was determined in a very few minutes yesterday.

The bill, which provided for changes in the charter of the College, had been reported adversely by the Committee on Judiciary, and the Chairman, Senator Buckman, moved indefinite postponement.

Seventeen voted to kill the bill and seven voted to save it.

Senator Broome was the only one to say a good word for the measure, and even he seemed puzzled as to a line of defense after Senator Beard had torn away any constitutional underpinning upon which the bill might have rested.

"I was asked to introduce this bill," explained Senator Humphries, "and did so as a favor. The author did not want the bill referred to the Committee on Judiciary, but to the Committee on Education, but I insisted that if I were to introduce the bill it must be referred to the former committee."

"After I had examined the bill," added Mr. Humphries, "I was satisfied that it was not a matter for the Legislature to handle."

"I think the bill had better be hung up. If we pass the bill it will give those Baptists who are not in favor of it something to scrap over. I am a Baptist myself and I consider that we should not pass this bill. It is a family quarrel and the Legislature has no business to butt in."

Senator Beard told of the long time given by the committee in considering all arguments for and against the bill and was convinced that the Legislature had no right to act.

"It may be that the Legislature has no right to pass this bill," said Senator Broome, "but the Legislature has passed many bills which it should not have passed."

"I am not a lawyer," continued Mr. Broome, "but I heard the argument, and though I stand single-handed before the Senate, I believe that it is equity and a just measure."

"I don't know of what religious denomination I am," cried Senator Beard, as he told of the various creeds adhered to by members of his family.

"Where do I stand? I don't know what I am," he said, as he concluded his appeal for the bill.

Senator Buckman then told of the many questions the members of the committee had asked at the hearing of those who wanted the change of charter, and the replies had been statements of satisfaction with it.

Senator Sams told of the growth of Stetson—how it had expanded from an almost log cabin school to the institution of fine buildings of to-day, and declared that all it wanted was to be left alone.

Constitutional objections to the bill were cited by Senator Beard, who said: "If this bill is passed, it will place the Senate in the unenviable position of having passed a bill it knew to be unconstitutional."

This concluded the argument, and the motion for indefinite postponement prevailed.

GIRARDEAU GETS COTTON GOODS.

Wanted to Prevent Cotton Stealing—Man in Jefferson County Made 27 Bales on Two Acres—Needed Law Against Such Intense Culture.

A slight flurry was provoked in the Senate yesterday about the bill of Senator West of the Fourth, providing for the payment of a license tax to traffic in seed cotton or unpacked lint cotton at certain times of the year.

An amendment offered by Mr. Adams, excepting dealers, was agreed to, and Mr. Clarke moved to make the time limit November 1, instead of November 15.

Mr. Girardeau promptly offered an amendment, making Mr. Clarke—"We make lots of cotton in my district, the time when such cotton could be sold December 1, saying that it should be the 15th."

"What time are you through picking cotton?" asked Mr. Clarke.

Mr. Girardeau—"January 1."

Mr. Clarke—"Must be mighty lazy in Jefferson county."

Mr. Girardeau—"We make lots of cotton."

too.

Mr. Girardeau—"We make big crops—one man, on two acres, made 27 bales last season. That is the reason I want this bill, and a long time limit to prevent cotton stealing."

Mr. Clarke—"I think the farmers should not have to wait so long before they can dispose of their crop."

Mr. Girardeau—"It would stop stealing and still would not be a hardship to the farmer."

Mr. Clarke—"There seems to be a disposition to legislate against corporations and farmers at this session."

Mr. Girardeau—"You may include niggers, too, as far as the gentleman from Jefferson is concerned."

The amendment by Mr. Clarke was lost, and then Mr. Girardeau offered one making the date when traffic was permitted without license December 15, which was adopted, and the bill was ordered engrossed.

COL. NAT'S EYES RECEIVED HIM.

Saw Goat Where There Was None.

The House spent an interesting half hour yesterday morning through the introduction of a symposium by Mr. Jones of Brevard, entitled "Short Talks With Our Country Correspondents."

Col. Nat Walker led the symposium, giving a pantomimic imitation of a week in Wakulla, and followed this with a reading of a petition from the citizens of Eau Gallie addressed to the "Hon. Legislature."

They are red hot down in Eau Gallie, and they make no mistake in choosing Col. Nat as their orator. The ponderous wheels of legislation ceased revolving when Col. Nat read the petition, for a matter of the greatest moment to the citizens of the village is to be determined by this Hon. body.

The issue is clearly drawn in Eau Gallie between those who have and those who have no horses, cows, sheep and lambs, pork and porkers. The question of fence or no fence which perturbs the country has been transferred by proxy to the hall of legislation and with the impressive introduction given it by Col. Nat the cause of the just stands in no danger of violence.

Col. Nat came near to making a mistake. In fact, he did commit himself, but afterwards withdrew it by unanimous consent. In reading the petition he reached that part of the document where the petitioners do pray, and give reasons why they indulge in such supplication, the same being that they do own stock and these parties who do not own stock have no cause to complain, except the sight of the stock they do not own grates on their nerves.

When Col. Nat reached this clause he misread the word "grate," and having had produced upon him the vision of lowing herds winding slowly o'er the sea, he inadvertently substituted the word "goat."

There was a hee-haw from some where in the House, suspiciously near the location of Levi Willis' desk, and Col. Nat paused in his reading, looked dangerously over his beribboned spectacles at the Speaker and remarked impressively:

"It looks like goat, Mr. Speaker."

The petition sets forth in brief that the owners of stock—horses, cattle, hogs—having learned of an effort on the part of those who do not own such property to prevent the said stock from having the privileges of the range by compelling the owners to keep the stock up within an inclosure, entailing great expense to the owners, the said owners do desire that the said special act shall not be passed, for the said stock "consist chiefly of horses used during the day for the ordinary work which horses perform and cattle which are mostly cows from which we draw our milk to feed our children and ourselves, and the few head of hogs are kept for the purpose of furnishing our families with an occasional bit of fresh pork, and that no annoyance is caused to the persons objecting to the roaming of such stock."

Mr. Griggs made a motion to refer the document to the Committee on Indian Affairs, but it was given to the clerk to be recorded in the Journal, after Col. Nat had performed his neighborly duty in behalf of the stock-owning citizens of Eau Gallie.

CONFUSION ABOUT THE WATSONS.

Member of Third House From Eden County Thinks Tom Watson Is to Blame for Obstructing County Division.

Here is a reproduction of a talkfest on the porch of the Leon yesterday morning by members of the Third House from Pinellas, Palm Beach, Eden, Seminole, Atlantic and Dade Counties:

Seminole—Say, Dade, where was your Representative last night?

Dade—He was in town, but he is onto his job. All this fuss don't amount to anything. Wait till he eats 'em up on the floor of the House, where they can't worry him.

Eden—What I can't figure out is, why as smart a man as he is should leave Congress to run for the Florida Legislature.

Seminole—He ain't never been in Congress—that's another Watson.

Eden—He has, too. This is the same man that said: "Where am I at," and he has a winter home at Lauderdale and a summer home in Kissimmee, and a summer home at Tidewater, Va., and fall house at Thomson, Ga., and a hardware store at Miami, and a magazine in Atlanta. I guess I know.

Dade—You got 'em mixed. There's two of 'em—Tom and John.

Atlantic—Well, it must be Tom that represents Dade, for John is from Hillsboro. Hillsboro has three Representatives, you know.

Pinellas—Is that so? I thought that fellow was just meddling in our affairs, and yet I thought it funny that a man would stay up two nights fighting another man's fight.

Seminole—Say, Palm Beach, who's your Representative?

Palm Beach—Representative? H—, 'Ask Mr. Foster.'

Seminole—You needn't be so short about it. I wanted to know.

Palm Beach—We's orphans—just a Senator—that's all. But he's enough.

Atlantic—Don't you fool yourself. You'll have an ex-Senator soon to deal with—the one with the Indian name.

Eden—Darned if it don't look to me like Watson had the cards stocked, and you fellers cut 'em.

Seminole—That Indian name brings it all back. Let's hit the bottle.

Beetles are the most widely spread of all the world's insects. Spitzbergen is almost the only known land where they are not found.

SHORT AND SERENE WAS HOUSE SESSION

WILSON OF HERNANDO OBJECTED TO SUSPENSION OF RULES IN FAVOR OF LOCAL BILLS, BUT DIDN'T URGE CONTENTION.

There was nothing to disturb the somnolent serenity of the House yesterday, and the most perturbatory session of the week dragged through until noon, when adjournment was taken until Monday morning.

Mr. MacWilliams made a motion to reconsider the vote by which Mr. Lettigrew's resolution for the initiative and referendum failed to pass the day before. There was a motion to table the motion to reconsider, which resulted in a tie vote—24 to 24—and the question recurring on the motion to reconsider the motion was lost by a vote of 26 to 25.

A feint was made at discussion when Mr. Decker of Hillsborough offered a bill to extend the limits of the city of Tampa to take in the settlement of Fort Brooke, and asked for a suspension of the rules, that it might be put through without delay.

Mr. Wilson of Hernando objected.

"Too much time had already been given, he said, to these 'purely local bills.' Important measures, he said, were on the calendar waiting for action, and he didn't see any reason why these local bills should be given precedence. There was danger that the important measures would not be reached if this rule should continue to prevail.

Mr. MacWilliams said he didn't see why the gentleman from Hillsborough should be singled out, when all other members having local bills had been given the privilege of suspension.

"If the rule is changed we've got to make a beginning some time," said Mr. Wilson.

But this ended the discussion. The rules were waived and the bill passed.

But little business was disposed of. A number of the members had been excused to go home, and when their measures were called they were passed upon informally.

Before the hour of adjournment the hall presented a well-nigh deserted appearance, and the few left made quick departure.

The week has been a good one, however, for a mass of bills were gotten off the calendar in one way and another. A large number were withdrawn, and relatively few have been introduced.

The prospect is, therefore, that the next week will witness a considerable reduction of the calendar, provided no greater number of bills are introduced during the coming week than have been entered during the past six days.

STRUGGLE FOR SENATE ADJOURNMENT.

Compromised by Recess Until Afternoon That Those Who Wanted to Remain Might Consider Local Bills—Adjournment Then Until Monday.

Attempt to secure adjournment until Monday afternoon was the most exciting work of the Senate yesterday morning.

But the motions both for morning and afternoon of Monday failed.

Senator West of the Fourth was first to the bat, and put out a motion to adjourn until 3:30 o'clock Monday afternoon.

A substitute was offered by Senator Humphries to adjourn until 3:30 p. m., and consider local bills only, thus giving those who wished, opportunity to spend Sunday at home.

Senator Broome asked: "I want to know if that will be binding; if the rules will not be waived and other bills taken up?"

"I think the Senate will be in honor bound not to do so," replied Senator Humphries.

The motion of Senator West was defeated, as was also another for Monday afternoon, by Mr. Girardeau.

Then the motion of Mr. Humphries to adjourn until 4 p. m., with a substitute by President Harris (Mr. Hudson in the chair) that it be a recess, in order that the latter might preside, was adopted.

Nobody should have been fatigued by the afternoon session of the Senate.

It is not known that anyone became wearied because of the work done, though perhaps some members were bored.

This observation is made not because it has any bearing on the case, but for the reason that it looked that way.

When the recess was taken it was done with the understanding that none but local bills would be considered.

That proposition seemed satisfactory to all at the time it was made, but when the Senate met at 4 o'clock there was a disposition to wander into the field of general bills, and the temporary President (Mr. Hudson), in answer to a question, said that the Senate had a right to consider anything coming before it.

"Do I understand that we can waive the rules and take up any bill?" asked Senator Sams.

"The Senate has that power," responded the temporary president.

"Then we had better break this quorum, so that faith may be kept with the absent members," declared Mr. Sams.

This outburst restored the balance that had been wobbling and the calendar was cleared of the half dozen or more local bills.

The motion of the morning that had been so fiercely disputed, adjournment until 4 o'clock Monday afternoon, was made by Senator Clarke, and agreed to.